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AUTHORITY

AGO D/A ltr, 29 Apr 1980

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

IN REPLY REFER TO

AD 867299

AGDA (M) (19 Mar 70) FOR OT UT 694217

27 March 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 44th Signal Battalion, Period Ending 31 October 1969

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 4b, AR 525-15. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT UT, Operational Reports Branch, within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.

2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

KENNETH G. WICKHAM  
Major General, USA  
The Adjutant General

1 Incl  
as

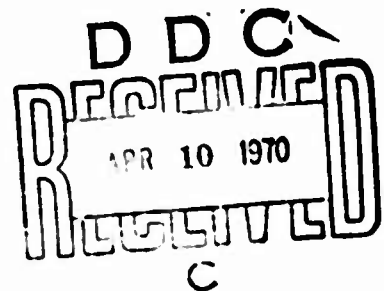
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UNCLASSIFIED REPORT

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ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR FORCE DEVELOPMENT  
(ARMY) ATTN FOR OT UT. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 44TH SIGNAL BATTALION  
APO San Francisco 96491

SCCPV-UG-FF-SC

15 November 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 44th Signal Battalion, Period Ending 31 October 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Operations: Significant Activities.

a. During the reporting period several important visitors toured communications facilities operated by the 44th Signal Battalion. These visitors included Major General George E. Pickett, DA Communications Electronics Branch, Brigadier General Thomas M. Rienzi, Commanding General, 1st Signal Brigade, Brigadier General Jack A. Albright, Deputy Commanding General, 1st Signal Brigade, and Colonel Bernard J. Pankowski, Commanding Officer, 160th Signal Group.

b. At the end of the reporting period, battalion assigned personnel strength was 976 men, a gain of 146 men from the last reporting period.

c. There are continual critical shortages of Fixed Station Technical Controller (32D), Dial Central Office Repairman (36H), and Communications Center Specialists (72B). These shortages are listed below:

		<u>Auth</u>	<u>Assg</u>	<u>Short</u>
32D	Fixed Station Technical Controller	17	5	12
36H	Dial Central Office Repairman	21	16	5
72B	Communications Center Specialist	308	214	94

d. All training was conducted in accordance with standards prescribed by Department of the Army and regulations of higher headquarters. At no time were operations disrupted for the purpose of training. This unit did not conduct any major troop movements during the reporting period.

e. On 31 August 1969 two Gustav Hirsh Organization (GHO) personnel who had been assisting in operation of the Long Binh Dial Telephone Exchange since its activation left the exchange for assignment at other exchanges in Vietnam. These men were instrumental in wiring the Tan Son Nhut tandem circuits. Military personnel have assumed their responsibilities at the Long Binh Exchange.

FUR OT OT

694217

Inclosure

1.

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f. On 8 September 1969 the battalion received assistance from the Long Binh Criminal Investigation Detachment when the battalion area was searched by a sentry dog especially trained to detect the presence of marijuans. The results were negative.

g. On 17 September 1969 the USARV Data Service Center (DSC) Data Transceiver Terminal, operated by the 44th Signal Battalion was combined into one terminal with the 14th ICC Data Transceiver Terminal also operated by this battalion. Combining the two terminals resulted in the savings of three hundred thirty six man hours per week and \$4,517.00 monthly, in rental cost. The same mission is being performed in a more efficient manner.

h. On 16 October 1969 the Long Binh Major Relay was activated at Long Binh Post. This made it possible to deactivate the Long Binh Army Commcenter and the Phu Lam Relay Station. The new facility is designated to be the only Major Relay in the Republic of Vietnam. It also provides over-the-counter service for all units on Long Binh Post except Headquarters, USARV. The Major Relay utilizes an IBM 360/20 as a Mode I AUTODIN Terminal and has the capability for 30 teletype circuits. The Relay utilizes AMARS/TRU relaying equipment. By use of low-level keying and a Mod. V terminal, an alternate routing system is provided its subscribers through Korat ASC.

i. On 25 October 1969 BG Thomas M. Rienzi, Commanding General, 1st Signal Brigade, dedicated the Major Relay in memory of SP4 David A. Russell, 221st Signal Company (Pictorial), a combat photographer who was killed in action 18 March 1969. When ACP 117 is corrected to read "Russell Major Relay" this will be the official title of the Relay.

j. On 20 October 1969 a recommendation for a Battalion Meritorious Unit Citation was forwarded through channels to Headquarters, USARV. Results of the recommendation are unknown to date.

2. Lessons Learned: Commander's Observations, Evaluations, and Recommendations.

a. Personnel. None

b. Intelligence. None

c. Operations. None

d. Organization. None

e. Training.

(1) Training of Linemen (MOS 36C) Personnel.

(a) OBSERVATION: The training of Linemen personnel is lacking in certain areas.

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(b) EVALUATION: The training of 36C personnel is inadequate for the particular mission of maintaining cable and telephone communications on Long Binh Post, Vietnam. The mission involving the use of Linemen includes installation and repair of over 12,000 telephones, many of these being Key System phones and Touch Tone Multifrequency telephones (TMF), new installation of nominal amounts of multipair cable and repair and renovation of over 130 miles of outside cable including poles, guy wires, splice cases and messenger. The Linemen often cause productivity lag because it often requires weeks of on-the-job training to achieve proficiency in areas in which they are needed. Several personnel with as much as 11 years Lineman experience have never been exposed to cable splicing, phone repair or installation. Locally training linemen as splicers and cable construction personnel is not difficult. However, giving phone installation personnel the required detailed knowledge of electronics is a costly and time consuming process. This problem is compounded when installing highly sophisticated and costly multiline key phone units with inter-office communications and hold features. This battalion is presently pursuing a vigorous and aggressive program of personnel rotation and cross training, but it often takes up to six months to develop adequately trained personnel to perform the mission.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That MOS 36C be separated into three separate areas as follows:

1 Wiremen - Primarily concerned with installation, splicing, testing and maintaining cable.

2 Construction Personnel - Concerned with the laying of cable, both above and underground and all supporting activities such as setting poles, erecting messenger cable and land clearing.

3 Phone Installation Personnel - Concerned with the installation, repair and practical application of telephone and sophisticated office communications.

f. Logistics. None.

g. Communications.

(1) Cutover to new Major Relay.

(a) OBSERVATION: There were numerous problems caused by equipment needing adjustment during the initial cut over of circuits.

(b) EVALUATION: Although all equipment had been thoroughly tested in house, it required further adjustment once it was put on line. If the circuits could have been tested all the way to the distant terminal prior to passing traffic many of these problems could have been avoided.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 4th Signal Battalion, Period Ending 31 October 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That a brief testing period be authorized for the activation or cut over of teletype circuits when activating new communications centers.

h. Materiel. None.

i. Other.

(1) Short comings in Special Services Feature Film Prints.

(a) OBSERVATION: Many feature motion pictures arrive from the special services film exchange in a dirty and damaged condition. Often they have not been rewound and are not ready for showing. Many times the prints are badly scratched and sprocket holes are torn at the beginning of the reels. The resultant failures during projection have a detrimental effect on troop morale.

(b) EVALUATION: The conditions outlined above could best be corrected through the following actions:

1 Special film footage known in the industry as "academy leader" should be added to each reel of film. Its advantages are several. It would allow focusing of projector prior to start of film, prevent sprocket tearing and damage to film by allowing projector to be threaded with leader, not film.

2 The Army projectionist schools do not include a block of training on the projection and care of feature films as well as training films. However, there are some problems unique to each. Such schools are the only source of training for projectionist of feature films in RVN. Cinemascope lenses, often utilized in feature films are only slightly covered at present in such courses. Consequently, operators do not know how to use and care for this equipment.

(c) RECOMMENDATION:

(1) That academy leader be added to all new Special Services feature film print acquisitions.

(2) That the number of films in circulation on the circuit be increased so as to allow cleaning and inspection after each use.

(3) That Army projectionist schools include training in projection of feature films.



SCCPV-UG-FF-SC

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 44th Signal Battalion, Period Ending 31 October 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

3. Headquarters, Department of the Army Survey Information.

Omitted.

2 Incl.

~~1. List of Commanders and Staff~~

~~2. Battalion Organization Chart~~

Incls wd HQ, DA

DISTRIBUTION:



C. C. MARTUCCI

LTC SIGC

Commanding

- 1 - Commanding General, USASTRATCOM, Fort Huachuca, Arizona, 85613
- 2 - Commanding General, CINCUSARPAC, ATTN: GPOP-DT, APO 96558
- 3 - Commanding General, USARV, ATTN: AVHGC-DST, APO 96375
- 1 - Commanding General, 1st Signal Brigade (USASTRATCOM), ATTN: SCCPV-OP, APO 96384
- 1 - Commanding General, USASTRATCOM-PAC, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii
- 6 - Commanding Officer, 160th Signal Group, APO 96491

SCCPV-UG-OP-PT (15 Nov 69) 1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for the 44th Signal Battalion for Period Ending 31 October 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

DA, Headquarters, 160th Signal Group, APO 96491 25 November 1969

TO: SFE DISTRIBUTION

1. Subject report is forwarded in accordance with USARV Regulation 525-15.
2. Concur in the commander's observations, evaluations, and recommendations.



BERNARD J. PANKOWSKI  
COL, SigC  
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:

- 2 - Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the Army (ASCFOR, DA), Washington, D.C. 20310
- 2 - Commanding General, 1st Signal Brigade (USASIB, TCM), ATTN: SCCPV-OP, APO 96384

SCCPV-OP-AD (15 Nov 69) 2d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters 44th Signal Battalion for Period Ending 31 October 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

DA, HQ, 1st Signal Brigade (USASTRATCOM), APO 96384 24 December 1969

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DST,  
APO 96375

1. Subject report is forwarded in accordance with AR 525-15.

2. The following comments are made:

a. Reference item "critical MOS shortages", Page 1, Para 1c: As pertains to MOS 36H and 72B, statistics as shown are based upon pending MTOE not yet approved by Department of the Army. Consequently this headquarters has no authority to requisition additional personnel. Under the current approved TOE the 160th Signal Group has a surplus of personnel in MOS 36H and 72B.

b. Reference item "Long Binh Major relay", Page 2, Para 1h: The Korat Mode V ckt has not been activated due to HIA action from STRATCOM-PAC. Expect activation to take place in 30-40 days. Recommend last sentence in paragraph be changed to read "....an alternate routing system will be provided it's subscribers....."

c. Reference item "Training of linemen (MOS 36C) personnel", Page 2, Para 2c: (1) The ACcFS, Opns this headquarters does not concur with the separation of MOS 36C into the categories of wiremen and construction personnel. Although few 36C's are truly proficient in all of the skills required of the MOS they are school trained in the basic techniques that are needed in both of these sub-divisions. They may not be schooled to the extent desired by the using unit, however, they can usually be expected to become reasonably capable within one months time of their arrival in-country.

(2) This headquarters does concur in the need for establishment of an additional skill identifier (ASI) to identify those individuals qualified in telephone repair and key systems repair and installation. A recommendation to this effect has been given to USASESS, Fort Gordon, Georgia. In addition, a recommendation was also made that individuals possessing the 36C MOS be functionally trained as telephone key systems installers and repairmen.

-AD

24 December 1969

Operational Report -- Lessons Learned, Headquarters 44th Signal  
Battalion for Period Ending 31 October 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

Reference item "Shortcomings on Special Services Feature Film  
Para 21, Page 4: The comment concerning lack of training on  
scope lenses seems valid and will be forwarded to the OIC, Audio-  
Support Center for consideration for inclusion in the course.

COMMANDER:



T. E. MULLENNIEK

LTC, AGC

Adjutant General

ing General, United States Army Strategic Communications  
, ATTN: SCC-OPS-RT, Fort Huachuca, Arizona 85613  
ing Officer, 160th Signal Group, APO 96491  
ing Officer, 44th Signal Battalion, APO 96491

(15 Nov 69) 3d Ind

Operational Report-Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 44th Signal  
Battalion, Period Ending 31 October 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

RS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375

manding General, United States Army Strategic Communications  
mand-Pacific, APO 96557

mander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT,  
O 96558

headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned  
arterly period ending 31 October 1969 from Headquarters 44th  
talion and comments of indorsing headquarters.

its follow:

ference item concerning "Training of Linemen (MOS 36C) Personnel",  
aragraph 2e(1); concur with 2d Indorsement. This matter has been  
o the attention of CONARC and the USASESS, Fort Gordon, Georgia.  
ceded that the unit should not have to train replacements in this  
is situation should be corrected in CONUS; however, in the mean  
USASTF offers a course in key systems telephone installation and  
l in cable splicing. The 44th Sig Bn can request allocations to  
ses. For last quarter the 44th Sig Bn requested only 2 allocations  
plicer school and one key system main. This quarter's request was  
six allocations respectively. Adding more MOS's to the system will  
be additional problems.

ference item concerning "Short comings in Special Services Feature  
ts", page 4, paragraph 2i(1) and 2d indorsement, paragraph 2d;  
th 2d Indorsement. All new films arriving in RVN from CONUS have  
y leader attached to the beginning of each reel. However, through  
projectionist procedures, the academy leader is often destroyed when  
is fed incorrectly into the projector. Each film distribution point  
quipment to replace the destroyed academy leader with a more durable  
eader. Destroyed leader should be replaced at the film distribution  
films are rotated from units in the field. Maximum utilization of all  
film, in order to support the new policy of showing movies seven  
week, should be made.

MMANDER:



C. E. MICHELS

MAJ GEN

Assistant Adjutant General

in  
le

SCCP-OP3 (15 Nov 69) 4th Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 44th  
Signal Battalion, Period Ending 31 October 1969, RCS CSFOR-65  
(R2)

Headquarters, U.S. Army Strategic Communications Command, Pacific  
APO San Francisco 96557 14 FEB 1970

TO: Commander in Chief, U.S. Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT  
APO 96558

1. Subject report is forwarded in accordance with AR 525-15.
2. This headquarters has reviewed subject report and offers the following comments:

a. Reference Paragraph 1h, Page 2, and Paragraph 2b, 2nd Indorsement.  
The Long Binh relay - Korat ASC Mode V circuit has been revalidated for  
activation on 15 February 1970.

b. Concur with the remainder of the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

7

FRANK C. MAHIN  
COL, GS  
Chief of Staff

CF: w/o Incl

Commanding General, U.S. Army, Vietnam, APO 96375  
Commanding General, 1st Signal Brigade (USASTRATCOM) APO 96384  
Commanding Officer, 160th Signal Group (USASTRATCOM) APO 96491  
Commanding Officer, 44th Signal Battalion (USASTRATCOM) APO 96491

GPOP-DT (15 Nov 69) 5th Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 44th Signal Battalion for Period  
Ending 31 October 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 19 FEB 70

THRU: Commanding General, US Army Strategic Communications Command,  
Fort Huachuca, Arizona 85613

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the  
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters concurs in subject report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:



D. A. TUCKER  
CPT. AGC  
ASST AG

CF:  
DA, ACSFOR  
CG, USASTRATCOM-PAC

SCC-PO (15 Nov 69) 6th Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 44th Signal Battalion for Period  
Ending 31 October 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

Headquarters, United States Army Strategic Communications Command, Fort  
Huachuca, Arizona 85613 1 5 11 1970

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the  
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters concurs in subject report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

*M. G. Alderson*  
for *W. O. [illegible]*  
[illegible]



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